



To the rescue

CNP employees head to U.S. to help clean up after Sandy

3



Minor amount of damage

A summary of storm's impacts locally

4



Ridgeway woman goes to Kenya to help

get it
online
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Happy on Halloween



KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

Early Learning program students at Fort Erie Elementary School William Farr, left, Jaelynn Cosby, Tait Liberators, Julia Clarke-Louie and Chloe Joyce having fun on Halloween, after a parade that ended at Gilmore Lodge. Students in the school's choir serenaded the retirement home's residents, before heading back to school.

Panel 'screwed up'

Politicians and track officials 'shocked' that Fort Erie is left in dark

Kris Dubé
Editor

Its track record should speak for itself.

That's what officials involved with the fight to keep the Fort Erie Racetrack agreed on at a press conference held on Wednesday, to respond to the Ontario Horse Racing Industry Association (OHRIA)'s transition panel's report.

The 36-page document has been anticipated since August, before its release on Tuesday of this week.

It is a series of recommendations proposed to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs that the three-person panel feels can revitalize the struggling horse racing industry.

See Page 2



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Moving races to other track not supported by local officials

From Page 1

“**We not only survive, we thrive.**”

—Jim Thibert

The general consensus from officials such as Fort Erie Live Racing Consortium (FELRC) chief executive officer Jim Thibert, mayor Doug Martin, Niagara Falls member of provincial parliament Kim Craitor and other senior staff at the track, is that Fort Erie has been “thrown under the bus” and that the model the 115-year-old historic oval has operated under for the last three years should be seen as a leading example.

Thibert said he agrees with “99.9 per cent” of the recommendations, but is not satisfied with the suggestion that Fort Erie should be cut to 30 race dates per season, compared to the normal 78, saying it simply is

not viable.

It is also mentioned in the report, that Fort Erie’s racing operations could be moved to Ajax-Downs racetrack.

He said the last three years at the Fort Erie Racetrack is proof that there is a growing market in the area, consisting of old and new racing fans.

“We have been consistently growing every year,” said Thibert at the press conference.

“We not only survive, we thrive,” he added.

Thibert also feels that the Fort Erie Racetrack has already been operating very close to the format that the panel recommends for the entire industry, relying less on slot revenues and focusing more on the consumer. In April, the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation ended the slots-at-racetrack program.

“We epitomized the ideals of that goal,” said Thibert.

Across the industry in Ontario, tracks have an average dependence on slot money for race purses of 63 per cent.

Fort Erie only committed 48 per cent of funds generated by slot to go toward prize money.

“So upon review and close critical evaluation of the final report it is perplexing to wonder why the panel has decided that the Fort Erie race business is dead.” But the track isn’t totally a write-off yet.

A public investor could come aboard to develop the

338 acre piece of property into a major destination attraction, but Thibert says a buyer is not essential to keep the track open for racing.

“That goal would yield more traffic on-site and additional reasons for consumers and tourists to attend the track and patronize Fort Erie,” said Thibert.

Another source of income for the racetrack would be a sports book betting feature, where gamblers can place bets on individual sports games taking place in the National Football League or National Hockey League and other professional circuits.

This was an idea brought forward originally by Craitor, who is seeking federal support with the help of Conservative member of parliament Rob Nicholson.

This potential feature is mentioned as a possibility across all of Canada, but since it was first introduced as a potential direction for the local track, Craitor feels it should remain that way.

“Fort Erie should be the pilot project,” he said.

“It would be a great addition, from a business perspective,” said Craitor. Mayor Doug Martin was also highly critical of the recommendation to move the local operations to Ajax-Downs.

Although Martin feels Craitor, as the local representative for the province, has worked hard at finding a solution for the historic oval, the government as a whole has not provided much good news for Fort Erie in recent years.

“After all they’ve done to us, I thought this would be a chance to redeem what they’ve done in the past,” said Martin.

Local representatives and track officials were included in a series of interviews with panel members about the future of the Fort Erie Racetrack, but Martin was shocked to learn when he read the report, that a second wave of interviews were held and the track was not included. There’s still a lot more to say, he feels.

“It’s incumbent on them

to bring this back to the table,” said Martin.

Craitor is not impressed with the report and its recommendations for the local historic track.

“I was absolutely shocked, this is not what I expected to see,” said Craitor.

Although he agrees with the three-person panel consisting of one member from each major political party in the province, this is outweighed with his disappointment in the suggestion that Fort Erie’s operations could be taken over at Ajax-Downs.

“The report screwed up when it talked about Fort Erie,” said Craitor.

Craitor says he will be approaching his colleagues at Queen’s Park from other parties that have been supporters of the industry and the Fort Erie Racetrack specifically to help him come up with a way to work toward a solution.

The FELRC hopes to reopen discussions with the panel, Thibert said at the press conference.

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Power company lends helping hands across the border

Kris Dubé
Editor

Once Canadian Niagara Power (CNP) made sure its local service territory was in the clear after Monday's

stormy weather, it became time to provide assistance where it is greatly needed.

Four local line mechanics and another two from Cornwall are currently assisting with the Central Hudson Gas and Electric

Company to restore service, about 20 miles south of Albany, N.Y.

They are six of about 700 crew members working around the clock to help get life back to normal after Hurricane Sandy, a

severe weather event that has caused major damage across the U.S. east coast.

When the men departed on Wednesday afternoon from CNP headquarters in Fort Erie, 103,000 of the 300,000 customers served by the Update New York Company were without power.

When CNP chief executive officer and president Bill Daley spoke to their representatives after the storm, it was obvious they needed help.

"The message to me was quite simple... send everybody you can," said Daley when meeting with the Fort Erie Times on Wednesday.

Fortis Ontario, based out of Newfoundland, is the parent company of CNP. Daley said there is an ongoing process that will make the Hudson Company a sister-utility of CNP, one of it is acquired by Fortis once a transaction is completed.

"We're already getting to

know this company," said Daley.

But once the impacts of Sandy were taken care of locally, Daley said they knew helping out wouldn't be a problem.

"We had the storm coming at us as well, so we had to get beyond that."

Whenever there is a devastating natural event, emergency services and utility companies traveling outside of their jurisdiction is not a new gesture.

"It's not uncommon, we

help each other out," said Daley.

A specific situation that will always be in the minds of staff at CNP and the local community, is the freak storm of October 2006, perhaps one of the worst this area has seen in decades.

Utility companies from all over travelled to Fort Erie and helped with the clean up for weeks.

"We had tremendous support, so this is a chance for our company to give back," said Daley.



KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

Canadian Niagara Power president and chief executive officer Bill Daley, second from right, with line mechanics Nick Micallef, Tom Curran, Chris Ramsey and Sandy Benner before they embarked on a six hour drive to help restore power in update New York.

Have you HEARD?

by Aileen Miller, M.C.Sa
Registered by C.I.C.E.-25
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KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

On Monday night, the Fort Erie Fire Department responded to a number of calls. The most serious, according to chief Larry Coplen was on Murray Street, where a tree had fallen on a house.

Sandy's expectations come up short

Kris Dubé
Editor



We were very fortunate the winds weren't as high as expected."

— Kristine Carmichael

Despite a tree falling onto a house in Fort Erie and a few other minor incidents, the Canadian Niagara Power Company (CNP), the Fort Erie Fire Department (FEFD) and Environment Canada say the impacts of Hurricane Sandy in Niagara were much less than what they were in other places like the Mid-Atlantic United States.

Kristine Carmichael, manager of customer service and corporate communications with CNP explained that around 7:30 p.m. on Monday, 290 customers in Stevensville lost power for about 15 minutes, due to tree contact with hydro lines. There were five broken poles within the Greater Fort Erie and Port Colborne service area. One hundred customers in Port Colborne were without electricity on Tuesday morning, but Carmichael said those properties would have power restored by the end of the

day.

When there is an anticipated significant weather event like this, making sure there is enough manpower to provide service in an emergency is always a measure that is taken.

"We had a number of staff on call," she said.

The power company was prepared, but the storm didn't pack the punch that some people expected in Greater Fort Erie and the rest of the region.

"I really think that much of the energy of this storm

dissipated by the time it reached our service territory," said Carmichael.

"We were very fortunate the winds weren't as high as expected," she added.

Geoff Coulson, a meteorologist with Environment Canada said a wind warning was issued on Sunday, and it was forecasted that rainfall accumulation in Niagara would not reach levels it did in parts of the U.S.

"By first thing Monday, it became apparent that the worst of the rain would stay south of Lake Erie," said Coulson.

In the United States, the situation was far more serious... especially in the mid-Atlantic region.

"There was no widespread damage like they saw in the mid-Atlantic states, which is where Sandy truly was a 'superstorm' or 'Frankenstorm, if you will,'" said Coulson.

There is a weather station that can determine wind speeds in Fort Erie, but Coulson provided figures collected from ones nearby.

In Niagara Falls, N.Y., wind gusts reached 76 kilometres. In Welland, wind speeds ranged from 60 to 80 kilometres.

In Buffalo, N.Y., winds peaked around 10 p.m. on Monday, moving as quickly as 70 kilometres.

Larry Coplen, chief of the FEFD, said the fallen tree on Murray street was the most serious storm-related event from Monday evening.

The call was put out around 10:30 p.m.

"There was no significant structural damage," said Coplen.

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Local woman visits Kenya to work with Free the Children

Melissa Mangelsen
Fort Erie Times

Bonnie House, of Ridgeway had an extraordinary experience this past June when she traveled to Kenya with her daughter Brenda Cunningham of Oakville.

House's employer, Joe Schmitt, CEO of Alpha Group (Alpha Exchange, which is now merging under the conglomerate known as The Maple Group), decided to seek out a worthy and respected philanthropic cause to show their employees and associates their commitment to integrity and to be a role model for social change. They chose House.

Schmitt carefully chose three of his employees, along with a guest of their choosing to make the trip to Kenya, to turn the soil in Kipsongiri for their school and to commission them to acquire firsthand knowledge and awareness of the scope of the project and witness the standards of Free the Children (FTC).

"We quickly gained an enormous respect for FTC, for the way in which they train and empower local native peoples to carry out these huge tasks of building and maintaining the schools, hospitals, adult training centres and farming operations, while demonstrating environmentally sensitive practices," said House.

They spent 10 days at the Bogalri Cottages in The Maasai Mara that were planned for them under the FTC partner, Me to We Trips. When they first arrived at Nairobi, they were met by other members of their adventure tour.

"They came from Toronto, all employed by AOL Canada. This

group of individuals had raised from their own personal fundraising, a whopping \$25,000," she said.

Upon arriving in Kenya, House said her first surprise was that instead of sweltering in tremendous heat they needed their sweaters.

"Though we were close to the equator, this was Kenya's winter, and we were at an altitude of 6,800 feet above sea level, west of the well-known Great Rift Valley," she said.

They visited The Karen Blixen Coffee Garden while in Nairobi, and after flying out to the rural camp they were privileged to take many day trips.

"We visited schools that were fully operating and witnessed the amazing efficiency and happy, eager students. We were shown sites that were under construction, allowing for some hands-on pitching-in for a taste of volunteer work. We visited one of the squeaky clean, cheerfully appointed health clinics/hospitals, much smaller and simpler than we're used to," said House.

They also had the opportunity to go on two safari

excursions and tour with Robin Wiszowaty, who is the FTC Programs Director and author of My Maasai Life.

"We had lessons in Swahili, were treated to spectacular cuisine, attractively and generously spread buffet style each and every day!"

The temperate climate allows for most fruits and vegetables to grow year round with irrigation. In the part of Kenya they were in, in order to get adequate water, wells were drilled to a depth of up to 900 feet or more.

"The greatest thrill came for us when we arrived at Kipsongiri to turn the soil for Alpha for the new school. We were blown away as we were greeted by hundreds of smiling, singing, dancing, warm hearted and appreciative men, women and children," she said.

After travelling over very rough and rugged terrain, they never witnessed an actual village. Their dwellings were made of mud, cow dung and thatched roofing and were sprawled out across the countryside, which is beautiful and rolling.

"These throngs of gather-

ers literally walked, some more than two hours. They eagerly and enthusiastically prepared a reception and had their local chiefs, elders, educators and dignitaries giving speeches of gratitude and appreciation," she said.

After the Alpha reps gave words of support and tribute the impoverished people generously presented the Alpha team with two goats as their symbol of gratitude.

"After that they danced in joyful celebration, as they adorned the necks and wrists of their guests with handmade beards, as yet another generous act of gratitude," said House.

"The heart of these people and their simply joy, absent of any material wealth, is in itself, the most inspiring and enlightening revelation. This alone made our trip home a worthwhile, life changing experience."



Ridgeway resident Bonnie House, with her daughter Brenda Cunningham took the Fort Erie Times with them to Kenya on a philanthropy mission.

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opinion page

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our editorial

Bad news always starts the blame game

When we hear news like we did this week, everyone wants to play the blame game.

The Ontario Horse Racing Industry Association released its transition panel report this week, making recommendations on what could be done to save the struggling industry, which happens to employ hundreds upon hundreds of people locally.

Everyone is frustrated, we get that.

To blame the local town council for the Racetrack's woes... that's hard to understand. More could have been done, working with the EDTC to come up with a solution.

But this issue is above and beyond the municipal level.

It's the Liberal government...

there's no way of getting around that.

Our local representative Kim Craitior has also taken criticism on this issue. Yes, it is his government that made these reckless decisions but he is not entirely to blame.

He had very little to do with it. At a press conference on Wednesday, Jim Thibert and mayor Doug Martin both thanked Craitior for his work and said publicly he has been working hard with them to find a solution.

If this wasn't the case, it's doubtful they would have said that.

-Kris Dubé



Do You Remember?

Last week's photo of the two women roller skating to a Brazilian number in the Skating Vanities of 1948 were left, Eleanor Foss of Fort Erie and Rosanne Caputo of Niagara Falls,

New York. Our thanks to an anonymous caller for identifying the skating partners.

Something is amiss in this week's photo taken at a theatre production. That 'lady' on the left does not

look like any lady we know. If you can see past 'her' disguise or identify the lady on the right, please call the Museum at 905-894-5322 or e-mail museum@forterie.on.ca

Reader not optimistic about the future of Fort Erie

Dear Editor,

It is with great sadness that I write this.

I was one of the few that was holding on for hope for our greatest landmark and our identity to prevail against odds.

I feel some anger towards those who rooted for this.

This means lost jobs, lost revenue for our town and it hurts every-

one.

The Fort Erie Race Track may have seen its final days.

I want to thank Jim Thibert and members of the EDTC for doing all they could despite running an uphill battle. There may be hope in the future but for the present, it looks grim.

It seems like just yesterday that Fort Erie was being looked at as a place for growth, but in a few short years, both

our local and provincial governments have stepped in to put a stop to all that.

The people in this town really need to pay attention to our political scene and know what is going on so that this stuff never happens again. The 'Not in My Back Yard' (NIMBY's) got their council elected and things have gone nowhere but downhill from there.

We have one real ray

of light left in this speedway and if that doesn't get approved, I have to be realistic about Fort Erie's future.

I am not very optimistic.

The jokes no longer seem funny as this town continues to take its lumps.

We need a new council and we need it now. It will only happen when Fort Erie stands up as one and demands resignations.

Our provincial government is about to go through its own changes and only time will tell if it is for the better. This council has been run by a continuous 4-3 vote on every major issue.

It will be many people's first instinct to blame our mayor but he has been on the losing end of that 4-3 vote and has little power in the decisions made by this council.

It's time for those 4 members of council to step down because Fort Erie has failed under their term.

But they will need to hear it from the tax payers and in numbers first.

Greg Bonito
Fort Erie

opinion page

Craitor should 'wear the failures of government's reckless decisions'

Dear Editor,

Earlier this week, the Liberal government released its panel's recommendation for transitioning towards a new model for a sustainable horse racing industry. Predictably, the news for Fort Erie was not good.

I am not a fan of our current Liberal government. And although I consider Mr. Craitor a stand up guy, sadly he must wear the failures of his government's reckless decisions. The fact that he continues to propagandize his "differences" with his own party, does not ameliorate his complexity.

Every time I attend these important press conferences concerning the future of Fort Erie, I'm

almost always greeted by the same frightening, spine tingling words uttered by our local Liberal MPP Kim Craitor - "I just don't know why our Government won't listen to me."

The fact that I can count dozens of times he's actually used that sentence, should be enough to send a collective chill down the spines of every man, woman and child that resides in the communities he represents. How appropriate, his latest admission occurred on Halloween.

Getting answers from elected officials is tough enough when the politicians know the answers and intentionally stone-wall and obfuscate, depriving us, the public, any real hope of openness and transparency. But getting

answers from elected officials who are truly unaware, uninformed, disconnected and marginalized by their own Party, is the true definition of utility.

Such was the case I witnessed at Fort Erie's latest Media scam, when any semblance of a coherent, rational answer to the many questions posed to our Liberal MPP in response to the latest insult inflicted upon the Fort Erie community, was either lost in translation or just outright replaced by platitudes and rhetoric. Cue the smoke machine and roll out the mirrors.

That the panel calls for a starting date of Dec. 31 in order to implement some of the fundamental components of the new model, gives the Liberal

government some time to reassess its callous disregard and utter indifference towards Fort Erie. That was of course before important public policy work, vital to the economic prosperity of this and many other communities, came to a screeching halt because of a Liberal prorogued government. When asked about this, Mr. Craitor flubbed the answer. But he was quick to point out that those benefiting from the panels recommendations, specifically Ajax Downs, happened to be the riding of PC MPP Christine Elliott and Conservative Federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty. Nothing like partisan political jabs to distract from ones own shortcomings in that department. How about that?

MPP's using political clout in order to shape public policy for the health of their communities. What a novel idea Mr. Craitor.

Whether I agree with Craitor's Pork Barreling theory or not, utilizing political currency in order to bring projects, programs and prosperity to a member's home riding is nothing new. It's just too bad the residents of Fort Erie will never experience that political phenomenon.

Mr. Craitor has become an excellent politician. Not from his ability to help create public policy, rather his ability to gather votes. The strategy is simple and one the electorate must be made aware of: Attendance at 100 birthday parties, anniversaries and photos will get you a 100 new votes. But the sad fact too

many voters continue to ignore, it will never create 100 new jobs.

And as long as the electorate keeps rewarding those kinds of politicians, the nice guys like Mr. Craitor will continue in office while the economic landscape and the hopelessness that has become commonplace in small business, industry, manufacturing and an iconic 115 year old Racetrack, will continue it's downward spiral.

To read the full report released this week, visit www.standardbredcanada.ca.

Sandy Annunziata
Fort Erie

'A culture of respect' goes a lot further than bullying, says reader

Dear Editor,

The most humbling roles that I have in life is a parent. I see my own personal limitations and shortcomings mirrored back to me through my children in how they handle life's challenges. Over the last few weeks it has come to light that my daughter has been the target of bullying at school. As our family has been dealing with this, my husband and I have been grappling with the role that we have played in this.

We have tried to teach our children that "Standing back and allowing bullying to

occur is no different than being a bully yourself". My daughter's classmates stood back, and allowed things to unfold because they were afraid to become a target themselves. The number of "bystanders" has been the hard for me to deal with. As I've been looking in the mirror, I've realized that I have been doing the same thing by choosing to disengage from many local political conversations. I haven't wanted to become a target myself and I have been a bystander. I have only been teaching my own children through my words - and not my actions. To everyone who

has been a "target", I am sorry.

Our natural reaction when we hear about bullying is to tell the bully. What we forget though, is that bullies are often hurt individuals - who are frustrated - who feel that they have not been heard and have hit the point where they stop seeing the humanity in another person. The little girl who was bullying my daughter is a good child - with parents who love her - and the capacity to be a great citizen of our Town. She took the steps to "make right" the hurt that she caused. It takes courage to say "I am sorry I

hurt you - please forgive me". That little girl has helped me to start seeing those who occur as "bullies" to my community. She has helped remember that they are individuals who care deeply about their community who are frustrated and do want to make a difference. I get that I need to stand for their greatness, rather than blame them.

I appreciate the anger that happens when we see people who are about hurt because of political decisions - I've felt it. I confess to experiencing moments of rage as I have watched people I care about suffer. I have

felt "justified" in losing my temper when I have felt powerless. In those moments though, I have chosen to ignore the anger of the Politicians and Bureaucrats responsible for those decisions are human beings. I need to do a better job remembering that they are someone else's mother, spouse and child and have my words honour that.

If there is one thing that I know, it is that Fort Erie is a passionate, caring community - that wants to leave a wonderful future for our kids. Our kids are watching and learning from how we handle everything - good

and bad. I really believe that we will start to have less conversations about "bullying in our schools" if we are committed to "creating a culture of respect" in our Town. I'm seeing more and more where I am failing at doing what is needed to create that culture, and for the sake of every child in Fort Erie - I am committed to doing better.

Kay Green
Fort Erie

contact us!

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PUBLIC NOTICE

OVERNIGHT WINTER PARKING ON STREETS

ATTENTION ALL MOTORISTS:

In an effort to keep the streets free of vehicles during the winter months for snowplowing and sanding operations, residents are reminded that no overnight parking is permitted. Traffic By-law No. 2000-89, Section 205 provides that "No person shall park a vehicle or permit a vehicle to remain parked" on any street in Town "between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. between November 1, 2012 and March 31, 2013."

The Town's By-law Enforcement Officers will be exercising vigilant enforcement of By-law No. 2000-89. **Your vehicle will be issued a parking ticket and could be towed, at your expense,** if found in violation of the by-law.

Enquiries may be directed to the Town's By-law Enforcement Officers by calling (905) 871-1600, Extension 2216 (Geoff Stephenson) or Extension 2215 (Matt Richardson).



NOMINATIONS FOR THE GREATER FORT ERIE SPORTS WALL OF FAME

Do you know a person(s) who has achieved an outstanding or prominent level in their sport or an above average level of success in a number of sports? Are they a credit to the Greater Fort Erie area in terms of achievement and character?

If so, the Nomination/Selection Committee invites you to pick up a Nomination Form to put forth your candidate as a future Inductee to the Sports Wall of Fame located in the Fort Erie Leisureplex.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the following:

Town of Fort Erie
Facilities Management
3 Municipal Centre Drive
Fort Erie, Ontario L2A 2S6

or

Email: [HYPERLINK "mailto:icollae@forterie.on.ca"](mailto:HYPERLINKmailto:icollae@forterie.on.ca)
icollae@forterie.on.ca

Nomination forms must be completed and submitted prior to Friday, November 30th, 2012 to the above mentioned address, Attention: Cathy Dennahower

Craitor doesn't want Fort Erie to become part of Welland riding

Kris Dubé
Editor

Kim Craitor says Fort Erie should remain right where it is, when it comes to its electoral boundary.

On Monday, Fort Erie's member of provincial parliament spoke before the Federal Commission on Redistribution on Electoral Districts to counter a proposed change that may result in Fort Erie no longer being part of the Niagara Falls riding and become part of Welland's.

The idea of shuffling ridings comes from the suggestion that represented areas are too large and Craitor says this issue should be dealt with not only based on statistics and figures.

"Don't just talk about numbers, it's about people," said Craitor.

"This is about people getting the best possible representation," he added.

He used the War of 1812 bicentennial celebrations as an example, saying that much of the funding provided through government grants would not have been as easily distributed if Fort Erie, Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake were not part of the same riding since these municipalities are leaders in Niagara, relating to the historic celebration.

"It's the three communities that

have that relationship, that justifies that kind of funding," said Craitor.

Having three international bridges in the current Niagara Falls riding, also makes dealing with border issues much easier, he said.

"As the member here, I'm able to talk to both commissions," said Craitor.

Craitor estimated that if these changes are made, about 80 new members of parliament positions will be created across the country and 15 for members of provincial parliament in Ontario.

"They're redesigning it based on numbers.... we need to look at how we can best-serve the communities," said Craitor.

The Greater Fort Erie Chamber of Commerce has started a petition in support of Craitor's recommendation, to leave Fort Erie in the Niagara falls riding.

Over 500 signatures have been collected to date and president Dean Demizio hopes this number will grow when the public becomes more aware.

"We really want to get the word out there," he said.

The petition is available at various locations, including the chamber's office at 660 Garrison Road. It is also available online at www.forterie-chamber.com.

CHERRY HILL CLUB, LIMITED

Annual IPM Public Meeting

Being held at the Clubhouse
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On November 16th, 2012 at 10:00 am

Please confirm attendance by
calling the Club at

905-894-1122, prior to November 15th

John Gall, Superintendent

Organic education



MELISSA MANGELSEN Fort Erie Times

Rick Ladouceur of Chez Nous in Stevensville is helping the students at St. Joseph's Catholic Elementary School learn how to grow an organic garden. The students harvest their crops every Friday and make a salad with what they've grown. Read the story on page 10.

Veteran's Peace Park



KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

Councillors Bob Steckley and John Hill representing the Town of Fort Erie at the unveiling of the Veteran's Peace Park at the Royal Canadian Legion, Br. 230 recently. Anyone interested in dedicating a stone can contact the branch at (905) 894 5927.

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Students get a fresh learning experience

Melissa Mangelsen
Fort Erie Times

With the help of local farmer Rick Ladouceur of

Chez Nous, students at St. Joseph's Catholic Elementary School in Stevensville, are getting firsthand knowledge on organic farming.

Ladouceur, who is the Anglophone director, was offered a contract from the Trillium Foundation to help students plant, maintain and harvest an organic garden.

The program is called Centre of Agriculture Excellence Niagara.

Principal Lorrie MacKenzie, said it's been a valuable program to help students become more familiar with not just organic gardening, but also

eating healthy.

The school has six small gardens set up on the south side of the school, one being cared for by each class. Every Friday, they harvest their crops and have a salad day.

"Every week when we harvest, we have an organic salad day. It's great for the students because a lot of them don't eat salads. It's not the typical junk food," she said.

Students are also becoming exposed to kale, cabbage, lettuce and squash.

They are grown all winter friendly crops, that thrive in colder weather and have been provided with small greenhouse huts to keep the crops warm.

"Because the greenhouses will allow plants to grow over the winter, we will continue to harvest," she said.

This is a new project this year, and is part of their eco-

nomics awareness. St. Joseph's is a gold level certified school.

Ladouceur said this time of year is tricky for organic farming because the temperatures fluctuate and it's hard to know when to close the greenhouses and when to keep them open.

The project started in September and Ladouceur said they've been able to pull a crop off weekly.

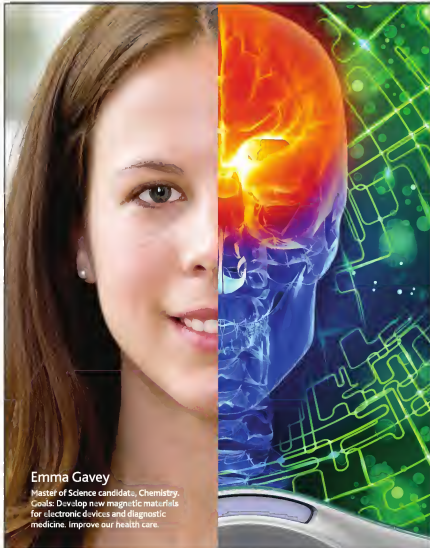
"Our focus is to have a weekly harvest and salad day. Typically we're getting enough crops off for one to three classes a week to have salad," he said.

In January, depending on the weather, crops may have to all be harvested and Ladouceur said if this happens they'll be able to have a salad day for the entire school, as well as parents.

MacKenzie said this goes well with their breakfast

program, which offers all children at the school a daily breakfast.

"We're teaching them something different, and teaching them how to make healthier choices," she said.



Emma Gavey

Master of Science candidate, Chemistry.
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Fort Erie tops ombudsman's gripe list

Complaints to Ontario's ombudsman against Fort Erie piled up between April 2011 and August 2012.

The town received 15 complaints in that time frame, more than any other municipality covered by Ontario Ombudsman Andre Marin's office, according to his annual report. His investigations into the complaints found two violations on the town's part.

Those were the result of council meeting twice behind closed doors in April and May with the Fort Erie Economic Development and Tourism Corp. The ombudsman said those meetings occurred without public notice and violated Ontario's open meeting rules.

Marin's report chides town council for ignoring "improper closed meetings" with the economic development corporation.

"If a third party invites council, local board or committee members to attend a private meeting, the municipal officials may still be required to comply with the open meeting rules," the report reads.

But Fort Erie Mayor Doug Martin said the town has been cleared of the vast majority of the complaints. He said the ombudsman did chide town council for mentioning strategic plan at the two meetings, but "every-

thing else was without merit."

He credited a small group of vocal citizens with putting the town atop the complaint list.

"It's a little frustrating, dealing with this," he said.

"We do everything accord-

ing to the (Municipal) Act, but they always find something to hang their hat on."

-QMI Agency

Doggy draw



Fort Erie SPCA manager Wendy Trombley, board of directors vice-president Martha Lookwood and 'Lady J' a Catahoula Cur mix and rescue dog from Louisiana, held the winners for this year's 50-50 draw, held annually by the local shelter.

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EARLY YEARS NAGARA LITERARY AWARD

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'NaNoWriMo' KICK OFF

Ready to write your Novel in one month? Join us for a National Novel Writing Month Kick Off event that will get your fingers clicking and pens rolling on their way! The November 2 session is especially for teens; November 7 is open to all ages, including teens. A quiet room is set aside at Centennial and Crystal Ridge for NaNoWriMo writers throughout the month.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2 to 4 PM. CENTENNIAL. FREE.

Lupus Foundation hopes to partner with legion

Kris Dubé
Editor

The Lupus Foundation of Ontario has applied for a grant through the Aviva Insurance Community Fund, to benefit the men and women who call the Royal Canadian Legion, Br. 230 a second home.

Especially when they return from a tour of duty.

One of the three Lupus

Foundation offices in the province is in Ridgeway on Ridge Road and office manager Kathy Crowhurst, hopes the community will place their votes for this cause.

If the funding application is successful, a total of \$150,000 would be administered to the cause that would allow for major renovations and improvements to the Legion branch in Ridgeway.

Several improvements to the kitchen would be made and new equipment purchased.

A coping skills facilitator would be made available for individuals and families who are dealing with the stress that often exists once returning to home life.

Crowhurst says Lupus can often become a condition military personnel acquire when they return to home soil because of high stress

levels or being over exposed to the sun.

The Department of Veteran Affairs does not provide relief to men and women who return from conflict unless their disability is physical, so a disease like Lupus is not regarded as a major issue.

"It's so heartbreaking," she said.

She hopes the bid is successful, to make Br. 230 into more of a venue for indi-

viduals and families to seek support.

Br. 230 president Barbara Hopkins supports the idea wholeheartedly, also pointing out there is very little funding available for families coping with the stress that the realities of war can create.

"It's extremely hard to get support," she said.

To support the cause, visit www.avivacommunityfund.org.

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Announcements

Birthday greetings



90th Birthday Open House for Leona Moore

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2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 71
130 Garrison Road, Fort Erie
Best Wishes Only Please



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November 3rd
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Call Classifieds: 1 866 541 6757

Deaths

FREROTTE, Susie M., aged 84 years of Moose Jaw, SK and formerly of Meyronne, SK and Fort Erie, ON, passed away on Saturday, October 27th, 2012. A Graveside Service will be held on Saturday, November 10th, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. in Hazenmore Cemetery, Hazenmore, SK. She was predeceased by her husband, Gabriel; son, Merik and son-in-law, John Eustace. Susie will be lovingly remembered by her children: Stewart (Marion) Frerotte of Niagara Falls, ON, Alice Eustace of Penzance, SK, Merle Alexander of Moose Jaw, SK, Joanne Souvine (Gerald Smith) of Moose Jaw, SK, Bill (Lisa) Frerotte of Fort Erie, ON, Ed (Kim) Frerotte of Fort Erie, ON, and Maggie (Briton) Sinclair of Adelaide, Australia; daughter-in-law, Maryann of Fort Erie, ON; 17 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; brother, Robert Stodier of Saskatoon, SK; sisters, Kay (Derek) Parkes and Elaine Hope, all of BC; and friends and extended family. Susie lived in Fort Erie, Meyronne, Assiniboia and then moved to Moose Jaw where she has resided until her passing. She loved to cook and knit, but most of all loved her family and grandchildren. As an expression of sympathy, donations in Susie's name may be made to the Salvation Army, 175 — 1st Ave. N.E., Moose Jaw, SK S6H 0Y9. Arrangements are entrusted to **MOOSE JAW FUNERAL HOME**, 266 Mulberry Lane, 306-693-4550. Todd Sjöberg, Funeral Director.
www.moosejawfuneralhome.com

Although we smile and make no fuss
No one misses him more than us
And when old times we oft recall,
It's then we miss you most of all.

Memoriam Verse #19
To remember a loved one with this verse
Call 1-866-541-6757 Today



Deaths

LaHAY, Margo - Margo passed away on Sunday October 28th, 2012 at the Douglas Memorial Hospital. Margo was the loving wife of Tom. Cherished mother of Michael (Pam) Lafond, Tim LaHay, Amanda (Rob Sostomi), and Tessa (Carl Thomas). Lovingly remembered by her 3 grandchildren. Margo is also survived by her sisters, Dornye Levere and Nelva Lord and her many nieces and nephews. The world needs more people like Margo. She was a loving and caring individual. Every person that she touched will remember her magical way of making them feel happy, welcomed and loved. Her many friends and extended family will miss her greatly. **BENNER FUNERAL SERVICES**, 1105 Benner Ave., Fort Erie entrusted with arrangements. The family received friends on Wednesday October 31st, from 2-4 & 7-9 Funeral Services were held in the Benner Funeral Chapel on Thursday morning at 11. Interment followed in Greenwood Cemetery. If so desired, donations to the Christian Children's Fund would be appreciated by the family.

LEVAIR, Dorothy Ellen, ne Tarzwell - Peacefully in her sleep at home on Saturday, October 27th, 2012 in her 77th year. Loving mother of Sheila (Doug) Hoover and Bernie (Annette) Levaire. Loved grandma of Jennifer, Gary and Cathy and great grandma of Cassandra. Dear sister of Chuck (Marion), Helen, Lillian, Billy (Ann), Bob (Pat) and the late Charlotte and George. Friends called at **WILLIAMS FUNERAL HOME**, 722 Ridge Road North, Ridgeway on Thursday, November 1st 2012 from 4-6 followed by a celebration of Dorothy's Life in the chapel at 6:00 p.m. As expressions of sympathy, donations may be made to The Heart and Stroke Foundation, Canadian Cancer Society or Canadian Diabetes Association. On line guest register www.williamsfuneralhome.ca

Deaths



PASCIA, Calogero "Charlie" - Passed away at the Douglas Memorial Hospital on Wednesday October 31st, 2012, in his 89th year. Loving husband of Rita. Proud father of Joe (Vanessa) and Sam (Lynn) Cherished Nonno of Tricia Lynn. **BENNER FUNERAL SERVICES**, 1105 Benner Ave. Fort Erie, entrusted with arrangements. Friends may call on Thursday Nov 1st, from 7-9 and Friday from 2-4 & 7-9. Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday morning at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church at 11 a.m. Interment to follow in Greenwood Cemetery. If so desired, donations to St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church Building Fund would be appreciated by the family. The family would like to thank the P.S.W. and Home Care providers along with Dr. Cennadi, Dr. Luitman and Dr. Scher for their care and support.

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In Memoriam....
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pleased to help you.
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Deaths



SHARPE, Neva June - Passed away peacefully in her home and with her family on Thursday, November 1st, 2012, in her 90th year. She will be greatly missed by her only loving daughter Sharon Anne and son-in-law Don Warren. Neva also leaves behind her loving sister Beryl Hutter and adoring grandchildren Chris, Elizabeth, Nissa, Jeff, April and Paul. Neva was also loved dearly and blessed with 9 great-grandchildren. Neva is now reunited with the love of her life; husband Hugh (predeceased in 2007). Neva set a wonderful example for her family and friends. A special thanks to Neva's angels Herb and Alvie for the compassionate and loving care they provided her. A thanks also goes out to Neva's team of nurses along with Dr. Sicher for providing her with the special care and comfort Neva needed in her final days. Donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Society in Neva's memory. Cremation has taken place. Arrangements entrusted to **HAMMOND DAVIDSON FUNERAL HOME**, Fort Erie. A memorial in celebration of Neva and Hugh's lives will be announced at a later date. We love and will miss you Grammy!



Card of thanks

With Sincere Thanks

THE DAVISON FAMILY

Lene Davison and her family would like to thank our relatives, friends and neighbors for all your kindness, generosity and support we received during the loss of our husband and father George (Jerry) Davison. Everyone's time and effort given to be at our side to console us is very much appreciated. Special thanks is given to Dr. C. Che, the nursing staff of the Douglas Memorial hospital and the visiting home-nurses, who gave George exceptional care throughout his illness. We are also grateful for the generous donations, cards, flowers and food that were given in George's memory.

The Opt-Mrs. of Fort Erie would like to thank everyone who attended our High Tea, Linda West of Just-in-Love for all the chair and table coverings and flowers they were beautiful. Terry Sennebaugh for all the delicious tartlet, Janie Gogone and Nancy Pearce from Ridgeway Wellness for their very informative presentation and many thanks to Kris Dube of the Fort Erie Times for all the coverage.

*A million times I've needed you
A million times I've cried,
If love could have saved you
You never would have died.
Things we feel most deeply
Are the hardest things to say,
My dearest one, I loved you,
In a very special way.
If I could have one lifetime with
One dream that could come true,
I'd pray to God with all my heart
For yesterday and you.*

Memoriam Verse #81
To remember a loved one with this Verse
Call 1-866-541-6757 Today

In memoriam



2 years ago we lost someone very dear to our hearts.

Kenneth Vincent Clarke

late husband to Deborah Lynn Clarke and father to Alyssa Bhanne Clarke, is missed everyday. We will always hold you close to our hearts. You are never really gone.

"I love you more today than yesterday, but not as much as tomorrow."

Kenneth Clarke 06/31/46 - 10/30/10

Cheryl May Light

In loving memory of my wife, our mother and grandmother who passed away November 2nd, 2011. If roses grow in Heaven, please pick a bunch for us and place them in her arms and tell her they are from us.

Tell her we love her and miss her, and when she turns to smile, place a kiss upon her cheek and hold her for a while. Remembering her is easy, we do it every day. But there is an ache within our hearts that will never go away.

Life goes on, days go by, but love and memories never die. Deep in our hearts your memory is kept, to love, cherish and never forget. Dearly missed by your family.

In memoriam

In memory of Jim Potter



We didn't want to lose you
But we knew you couldn't stay,
We finally wanted best for you
Time to go away.

We know where you're waiting
For each of us in time,
To welcome us and love us
Like you did the first time.

We miss you,
Love, Your Family

Steven Gilbert King

In loving memory of a dear son & brother, who passed away October 28th, 1974. Love Mom, John, Debbie, Cindy, Tina, Pauline, and Gilbert.

*The joys that he missed
on life's highway,
May he find in God's garden of rest.*

Memoriam Verse #24
To remember a loved one with this verse
Call 1-866-541-6757 Today

A Living Tribute

Place an *In Memoriam* for your Loved One.

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Shoot for a cure



KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

The Fort Erie Meteors take to the ice last Saturday, before the second annual Shoot for a Cure fundraiser for the Canadian Breast Cancer Society. A final calculation of the total amount collected at the game is not known by the organizers. The Fort Erie Times will have the full story next week.

Race in the rain



KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times
Shackleton Hill, ridden by jockey Jeffrey Alderson on its way to winning the fourth race of the day on Monday at the Fort Erie Racetrack. The last day of the season was scheduled to be Tuesday, but with Hurricane Sandy threatening the area, officials decided to cancel the final day. See this week's front page story for more information about the historic border oval and its future.

Meteors beat Buffalo 4-3

Heroics in the third period from Jesse Perreira allowed the Fort Erie Meteors to beat the Buffalo Blades last Sunday.

The Meteors were leading 2-1 after the first period, but the cross-border rivals netted two quick goals in the third period to go up 3-2.

Perreira scored to tie the game and shortly after he put his team ahead 4-3.

Scoring in the first period was Mike Boled with assists from Cameron Fairgrieve and Mac Passero.

Rich Demarco also scored with help from Nik Passero and Riley Devine.

Brandon Voic assisted on both Perreira's goals. Austin Carroll and Johnathan England also assisted.

The previous evening at home, the Meteors were beat 5-1 by the Welland Jr. Canadians.

The Meteors visited the Niagara Falls Canucks last

night and will welcome the Thorold Blackhawks tonight at the Leisureplex for a 7:15 p.m. puck drop.

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